

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claim 16 and add new claims 20-24 as shown in the following Listing of Claims. This Listing of Claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the present application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Withdrawn) A method of making an optical reagent format with a capillary gap, comprising:

providing a carrier with an insert, said carrier and insert being of a predetermined thickness;

placing said carrier in a mold;

molding a format onto said carrier and insert;

separating said insert from said carrier; and

removing said insert from said format leaving a capillary gap in said format.

2. (Withdrawn) The method of making an optical reagent format claimed in claim 1 further comprising applying reagent in said capillary gap.

3. (Withdrawn) The method of making an optical reagent format claimed in claim 1 said capillary gap having open sides, and sealing said open sides of said capillary gap.

4. (Withdrawn) The method of making an optical reagent format claimed in claim 1 further comprising removing said format from said carrier.

5. (Withdrawn) The method of making an optical reagent format claimed in claim 1 providing a plurality of carriers joined together and each including an insert, and molding a format onto each of said plurality of carriers and inserts.

6. (Withdrawn) The method of making an optical reagent format claimed in claim 1 said format including a pair of legs, further comprising forming said capillary gap between a pair of legs of said format.

7. (Withdrawn) The method of making an optical reagent format claimed in claim 1 wherein molding said format comprises molding a first format on an upper surface of said carrier and molding a second format on a lower surface of said carrier.

8. (Withdrawn) The method of making an optical reagent format claimed in claim 7 wherein said first and second formats are of a conical configuration.

9. (Withdrawn) A method of making an optical reagent format with a capillary gap, comprising:

providing a carrier of a predetermined thickness;
providing an insert on said carrier;
molding a format onto said carrier and said insert with a portion of said insert extending out of said format; and
removing said insert from said format to provide a capillary channel with an inlet and a vent in said format formed by said insert.

10. (Withdrawn) The method of making an optical reagent format claimed in claim 9 comprising removing said carrier from said format.

11. (Withdrawn) The method of making an optical reagent format claimed in claim 9 said insert comprising a material of a melt temperature higher than the melt temperature of the material of said format.

12. (Withdrawn) The method of making an optical reagent format claimed in claim 9 comprising molding said format with a first leg for the application of a light source and a second leg for the application of a light detector, said capillary channel being between said first and second legs.

13. (Withdrawn) The method of making an optical reagent format claimed in claim 9 comprising molding said format with a first conical member on a first side of said format and a

second conical member on a second side of said format with said capillary channel between said first conical member and said second conical member.

14. (Withdrawn) A method of molding an electrochemical sensor using a sacrificial insert, comprising:

- providing a first mold;
- inserting a first electrical contact in said first mold;
- inserting a second electrical contact in said first mold;
- closing said first mold with a second mold;
- injecting material for forming a sensor into said closed first and second molds;
- curing said material; and
- extracting said sacrificial insert from said sensor.

15. (Withdrawn) The method of molding an electrochemical sensor claimed in claim 14 wherein extracting said sacrificial insert includes clamping said insert and moving said sensor relative to said insert.

16. (Currently Amended) An electrochemical sensor, comprising:
a sensor base;
a sacrificial insert on said sensor base;
a first electrical contact and a second electrical contact in said sensor, said sacrificial insert positioned between said first electrical contact and said second electrical contact; and
plastic material on said sensor base and over said sacrificial insert, said plastic material of a formulation which allows removal of said sacrificial insert from said plastic material and said sensor base leaving a capillary channel in said ~~existing~~ plastic material.

17. (Withdrawn) A tool for extracting a sacrificial insert from an electrochemical sensor, comprising:

- a clamp for clamping a sacrificial insert in a stationary position;
- a first block moveable relative to said clamp;
- a drive member for moving said block relative to said clamp; and

an attachment member on said block to attach a sensor with a sacrificial insert onto said block.

18. (Withdrawn) The tool claimed in claim 17 further comprising a base, said clamp including a second block secured to said base.

19. (Withdrawn) A sensor, comprising:
a sensor body;
a first access window in said sensor body;
a second access window in said sensor body; and
an insert in said sensor body between said first access window and said second access window.

20. (New) The sensor of claim 16 wherein the sacrificial insert is constructed of metal.

21. (New) The sensor of claim 16 wherein the sacrificial insert is constructed of stainless steel.

22. (New) The sensor of claim 16 wherein the insert comprises a material having a melt temperature higher than the melt temperature of the plastic material.

23. (New) The sensor of claim 16 comprising a reagent disposed within the capillary channel.

24. (New) The sensor of claim 16 wherein the sensor is adapted to analyze a liquid sample.